Delay in Commissioning of Mlamale Exchange in Kerala

536. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in commissioning of the Mlamale Exchange under Peerumedu SDO in Kerala; and

(b) by when the said exchange is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The delay in commissioning of new telephone exchange at Mlamale was due to non-availability of 256 P RAX equipment. The equipment could not be procured due to stay of Hon'ble Karnataka High Court.

(b) The installation of proposed exchange at Mlamale is in progress and the exchange is planned to be commissioned by March, 1997.

Representations for opening Post Offices in Nalanda District

537. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals/ representations received for opening Post Offices received from Nalanda district of Bihar;

(b) whether any proposals/ representations for opening Post Office at Machhaldiha under Noor Sarai block have been received by Government; and

(c) if so, when and by what time Government propose to sanction a Post Office in the said village?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Thirteen (13) proposals/representations have been received for opening of Post Office in Nalanda District of Bihar.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal is under examination. The Post Office will be opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

Purchase of ASM-39 missiles and Mirage aircraft by Pakistan

538. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reported agreement signed by Pakistan with France to purchase sophisticated ASM-39 missiles which to be launched from latest submarines lately procured from France;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the reports that Pakistan is expected to receive a number of Mirage aircraft from France shortly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken to enhance our air and naval defence capabilities to match these acquisitions by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant observation by the Government and appropriate measures initiated and steps taken from time to time to maintain the required level of defence preparedness. The Indian Navy as well as the Indian Air Force are also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perception.